

Occurrence of the Least Tern at San Diego, Cal.—Quite a number of individuals of this species were shot in the summer of 1883, on the peninsula enclosing San Diego Bay. My own record of the birds is for the months of June and July, but others were reported in August and September. None have been seen this year up to date (May 25), and I am inclined to think their occurrence very unusual. I have never heard of them before on this southern coast.—GODFREY HOLTERHOFF, *National City, Cal.*

Wilson's Petrel in Western New York.—In my report to Dr. A. K. Fisher of the birds that occur in this vicinity, I mentioned among the Accidental Visitants a 'Stormy Petrel,' and gave him the particulars of its capture. He asked me to report it to 'The Auk'. The specimen is in my collection, and was taken by Mr. J. A. Newton of this city in Oct., 1875, while shooting Golden Plover in a field just outside the city limits. On examining it I find it is a Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanica*) instead of Stormy Petrel as reported. It was presented to the Jewett Scientific Society and lately came into my possession.—J. L. DAVISON, *Lockport, N. Y.*

New Brunswick Winter Notes.—Birds were particularly abundant during the winter that has just passed, especially through the earlier months, but they were not of the species generally common here at that season. The scarcity of Owls and Hawks was a marked feature, as was also the comparatively rare occurrence of the Crossbills, the Chickadees, the Snow Bunting, the Tree Sparrow, and the Redpoll. Pine Grosbeaks were numerous, and I thought some of the adult males were more brilliantly colored than any I had met before. They are always rather fearless of man, but the flock that wintered near St. John last winter seemed conspicuously so. I came upon a number feeding on the ground, and as I walked through their midst they barely moved out of my way, going off two or three yards, and when I stood, coming back to within arm's reach. One audacious fellow actually hopped between my legs, coolly pecking as he went.

The Red-bellied Nuthatch and the Golden-crowned Kinglet were reported very abundant in some localities. One trustworthy correspondent writes: "Observing a throng of birds in a grove, I went to the edge, and gave a shrill whistle, when they flocked around me. I counted over forty, mostly Nuthatches."

But the winter will be chiefly remembered by our naturalists as the season when the Bohemian Waxwing was first seen by the rising generation of observers; when several individuals of the Brown Creeper, the Thistle Bird, the Purple Finch, and the Cedar Bird were taken near St. John in January and February, and when large numbers of Crows and Robins spent the entire season in the Province.

It was not a 'mild' winter either, for though during a part of February the temperature was higher than that month generally brings us, the weather of the most of January was far from 'mild'—the thermometer

registering fifteen to twenty-four degrees below zero with a frequency and persistency that is quite unusual in this vicinity.

On stormy days the birds were not seen about the city, but they seemed quite indifferent to the cold, and when the sun was shining, even though the temperature was extremely low, they literally swarmed upon the branches, and on the ground beneath the mountain ash trees, in the squares and gardens; nor did they finally leave until every berry had been devoured.

I had almost neglected to note another occurrence for which the past winter will remain remarkable—the advent of *Passer domesticus*. Somewhere about New-Year's day a small detachment of English Sparrows—the first that are known to have visited this Province—arrived at St. John in a car of grain shipped from some western city; and, somewhat in the style of other 'cheeky' visitors, these pests act as if they intended to 'stay all summer.'—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

Second Addendum to List of Birds Ascertained to Occur within ten miles from Point de Monts, Province of Quebec, Canada; based chiefly upon the Notes of Napoleon A. Comeau.—Mr. Comeau has sent me skins of the following-named species, taken by him at Godbout, and not previously recorded from that locality:

157. *Saxicola œnanthe*. Shot May 18, 1884.
158. *Passerella iliaca*. Shot Oct. 11, 1883.
159. *Spizella monticola*. Shot in August, 1883.
160. *Passer domesticus*. Shot May 27, 1884.
161. *Empidonax flaviventris*. Shot in August or September, 1883.
162. *Tringa canutus*. Shot in August or September, 1883.
163. *Accipiter fuscus*. Shot May 2, 1884. Tolerably common; breeds.
164. *Melospiza lincolni*. Shot June 2, 1884.
165. *Melospiza palustris*. Shot June 2, 1884.
166. *Falco peregrinus nævius*. Shot June 2, 1884.
167. *Passerina cyanea*. Shot June 8, 1884.
168. *Siurus auricapillus*. Shot June 9, 1884.
169. *Sphyrapicus varius*. Shot June 13, 1884.
170. *Picoides tridactylus americanus*. Tolerably common.—C. HART MERRIAM, M.D., *Locust Grove, New York.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

An Ornithological Swindler.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

Sirs: A case of ornithological swindling which has lately come to my notice is of such an aggravated character that I feel it my duty to make the facts known. They are as follows:—